

into his Haram\*. For the Califfs were not then so subject to jealousy as the oriental Princes were afterwards; a passion which has been ever encreasing among the Mussulmen.

One day Jacoub having dined with his sovereign, he mounted his horse to return home. He fell, and broke his leg. The Califf being informed of this accident, expressed so much grief on the occasion, was so assiduous and anxious for the recovery of his friend, that he raised the jealousy of all those who had not the good fortune, like Jacoub, to please their master. Many of them determined to attempt the ruin of this favourite. They concerted measures to excite suspicions against him in the mind of the Prince: while Jacoub's leg was healing he lost the favour and confidence of his master; for, at court, more than at any other place, the absent are always in the wrong.

The Califf had received several informations that Jacoub did secret services for the family of the Alides, his rivals and enemies. When his old favourite was recovered, instead of betraying the least suspicion of him he affected to give him fresh testimonies of his confidence. Having one day taken him a part he thus accosted him:—Jacoub, I must own my weakness to you, I detest and dread Me-

\* The apartment of the women.

hemet

hemet, of the family of the Alides never venture to banish him from B. I must get rid of him.

The favourite represented to him that Mehemet, a man without friends without credit, was rather an object of pity than revenge.—No matter, replied the Califf, his existence disturbs me, and since it to my safety, I dare not bring him to public execution; that would raise too much a compassion for his fate.

The care of ridding me of him is yours. I have him here; I shall put him in your hands. Consider that the peace of your master's mind depends on you. It is so important a service must not want its reward; I give you the fair slave who cost me twenty thousand pieces of gold.

Jacoub answered in terms of gratitude, he found further remonstrances would be useless. The Califf immediately gave orders for the slave, with the unhappy victim of his jealousy, should be delivered to him; the money, the price of the blood shed, should be paid him.

Jacoub, more anxious for Mehemet's freedom than for the possession of the slave, conducted them both to his palace. He had scarce entered it, when Mehemet strongly suspected the Caliph's intention.

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